

Help by Japan In providing drinking water to rural areas

4373. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Japan Government have offered their help to provide drinking water "in rural areas in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the State Governments have been asked to submit the proposals for implementation of drinking water projects in the rural areas for which Japanese assistance is required;
- (d) if so, the State-wise details thereof; and
- (e) the extent to which the problem of drinking water is expected to be solved in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA): (a) and (b) Since 1998, Government of Japan has not agreed to provide assistance for any new project relating to drinking water in rural areas.

(c) and (d) From time to time, Government of India seeks proposals from State Governments for external funding in various sectors, including drinking water in rural areas. However, in view of the aforesaid, no new proposals are presently being sought from State Governments for funding by Japan.

(e) In so far as projects relating to drinking water in rural areas approved before the aforesaid Japanese sanction is concerned, one project namely OECF aided Kerala Water Supply Project—IDP-123 has been approved by the then Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF), Japan (now, Japan Bank for International Cooperation) in 1997 for assistance. The total estimated cost of the project is Rs. 1,787.45 crores. Under the project, it is expected that 58 villages, including semi-urban villages, along with other urban areas will be benefited.